



**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:**

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

**Visual Attention System**

~~This invention identifies the~~ The most significant features in visual scenes, is identified,  
without prior training, by measuring the difficulty in finding similarities between  
neighbourhoods in the scene. Pixels in an area that is similar to much of the rest of the scene  
score low measures of visual attention. On the other hand a region that possesses many  
dissimilarities with other parts of the image will attract a high measure of visual attention. ~~The~~  
~~invention makes use of a~~ A trial and error process is used to find dissimilarities between parts of  
the image and does not require prior knowledge of the nature of the anomalies that may be  
present. ~~The method avoids the~~ The use of processing dependencies between pixels and is  
avoided while yet providing capable of a straightforward parallel implementation for each pixel.  
~~The invention is~~ Such techniques are of wide application in searching for anomalous patterns in  
health screening, quality control processes and in analysis of visual ergonomics for assessing the  
visibility of signs and advertisements. ~~The invention provides a~~ A measure of significant features  
can be provided to an image processor in order to provide variable rate image compression.